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ORGANIZATION AND TASKS OF THE COMMITTEE ON PSYCHOLOGY
OF THE HUNGARIAN ACADEMY OF SCIENCES

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FOREWORD

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Organization and Tasks of the Committee on Psychology
of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences

[Following is the translation of an article by Pal Gegesi-Kiss in Magyar Pszichologiai Szemle (Hungarian Psychological Review), Vol XVII, No 1, Budapest, 1960, pp 1-8.]

I am sure it is not necessary to speak on the pages of this Review on the importance of the science of psychology and its practical applications. Yet the fact, that in our country after 1948 for nearly 10 years the researchers and practitioners of psychology had no chance to discuss the results of their observations in their own scientific journals and had not even had a forum where they could have discussed their problems in public and in an organized manner, made me wish to point out a few facts. This situation also meant the psychologists for 10 years did not even have the opportunity to seek new directions, helped by the wisdom and strength of the professional community. They could not coordinate their work, they could not organize the progress of their science and the applications of their scientific work in the everyday life.

All this had grave consequences: modern psychological training could not start and whatever had been done in the years preceding 1948 ceased to exist. Post-graduate training of the existing psychologists became difficult for the newest works of the science could not be found in the libraries. The Hungarian Psychological Society has been dissolved and its official paper, the Hungarian Psychological Review stopped publication. International journals were scarce and difficult to get and the Hungarian scientists could not follow the developments abroad. This state of affairs was harmful to the mature psychologists but was even more devastating to those young scientists who studied a profession which required a profound knowledge in theoretical and applied psychology. Medical, pedagogical and therapedagogical students suffered greatly from this policy.

The Hungarian Scientific Academy (HSA) observed the situation and within its limits started to remedy it. The First Clinical Committee heard a report on 14 December 1954 by Pal Gegesi-Kiss, entitled "The Application of the Pavlovian View in Hungarian Child Therapy." The discussion evolved from this review led the Committee to suggest to the officers of the Department of Medicine and Biology that the Academy or the Ministry of Health should organize a scientific anket [conference ?]

at which the problem would be discussed before a wide audience. This suggestion was accepted and, at the plenary meeting of the HSA in May 1955, a special scientific session discussed it. The HSA accepted the proposition that the science of psychology and the applications of its scientific results should be revived.

The plenary meetings of the HSA in 1955, 1956, and 1957 repeatedly took up the question of psychology in our country. The Psychological Subcommittee was set up first in the Department of Social Sciences and History. Later the Academy supported the view that psychology is neither a social science nor is it exclusively medicine. A Psychological Committee was organized which was attached directly to the Secretariat of the HSA. The committee was organized by Pal Gegesi-Kiss.

The Academy decided to organize meetings where psychologists working in the various fields could get together and discuss their work. They were encouraged to re-start the science of psychology in our country and asked to help to put the results of their work into everyday use.

The HSA further decided to publish the Hungarian Psychological Review again but even while this Review was being organized it sponsored the volume titled Pszichologiai Tanulmányok (Psychological Studies) which consisted works that could not be discussed before scientific forums before.

The Psychological Committee held its first meeting on 24 January 1959. Its work is summed up below:

The Secretariat of the HSA appointed Pal Gegesi-Kiss as Secretary of the Committee. Its members are:

Gusztav Barczy, Dean of the College for Therapeutical Pedagogy;
Ferenc David, Attorney at the Juvenile Court, Budapest (resigned in October 1959);

Gyorgy Gereb, Professor, Pedagogical College, Szeged;
Bela Horanyi, Professor, Director of the Neurological Clinic at the Medical School, Budapest;

Lajos Kardos, Professor of Psychology at Eotvos Lorand University, Budapest;

Miklos Kadar, Professor, Dean of the Law School at the Eotvos Lorand University, Budapest;

Ferenc Lenard, Pedagogical Scientific Institute;

Lucy P. Liebermann, First Child Clinic;

Laszlo Matrai, Professor, Corresponding member of the HSA, Director of the University Library;

Imre Molnar, Director of the Child Psychology Institute of the HSA;

Gabor O. Pogany, Chief Director of the Hungarian National Gallery; and

Endre Zibolen, Pedagogical Library;

This Committee suggested the establishment of subcommittees at its first meeting. The Secretariat accepted the proposal and the following Subcommittees were appointed and approved:

1. Philosophical-Psychological Subcommittee -- Secretary: Laszlo Matrai; members: Karoly Akos, Laszlo Kovacs, Gyorgy Markus, Laszlo Nagy, Pal Sandor, and Sandor Toth.

2. General, Experimental and Collective Psychological Subcommittee — Secretary: Lajos Kardos; members: Endre Grastyán, László Gábor Horváth, Edit Lenárt, Jeno Salamon, Sándor Szalai, and Zsolt Tanczos.

3. Pedagogical-Psychological Subcommittee — Secretary: Ferenc Lenárd; members: Erzsébet Baranyai, Lajos Bartha, Mrs. Hedvig Kéry-Juszt, László Kelemen, Gábor Surányi, and Endre Zibolen.

4. Work-Psychology Subcommittee — Secretary: Imre Molnár; members: István Balint, György Gereb, László Gábor Horváth, Rudolf Martonffy, Mihály Murányi, László Radics, and Mikos Timar.

5. Medical-Psychology Subcommittee — Secretary: Béla Horányi; members: Lajos Angyal, Imre Hermann, István Huszak, István Kornyei, Lucy P. Liebermann, Erno Szinetár, and Gyula Szirtes.

6. Therapeutic Psychology Subcommittee — Secretary: Gusztáv Barczy; members: Pál Györffy, Mrs. Gyula Illyes, Dezső Kanizsai, Miklós Kun, Blanka S. Loránt, József Mehes, András Peto, Anna Szabo, and Mrs. Antal Vincze.

7. Art-Psychology Subcommittee — Secretary: Gábor O. Pogány; members: Nora Aradi, Tibor Barabás, Dénes Bartha, Gyula Hincz, Ferenc Hont, Lajos Kassak, Máté Major, and Tibor Vilt.

8. Criminal Psychology Subcommittee — Secretary: Miklós Kadar; members: Antal Fonyó, Júlia György, József Molnár, András Szabo, József Szapor, and Aliz Videki.

9. Practical-Methodological Subcommittee — Secretary: Lucy P. Liebermann; members: György Áczel, Menyhert Farkasházy, Béla Galffy, Margit Hirsch, Iren Jakab, Árpád Mezei, and János Schnell.

With the organization of these subcommittees the organizational work has not yet been finished, however, for there are fields where the start of organized work is still looming above the Committees head.

The newly formed subcommittees have started with their organizational and scientific work; they worked out their 1959 operational plans and work according to them. The subcommittees participated in the editorial work of the second volume of the Psychological Studies and created projectional plans.

In the period 1958 end to June 1959 the Psychological Committee accomplished the following important tasks:

Examined the problems of psychologist training; distributed 1959 funds; published the second volume of Psychological Studies; prepared the publishing of this Review; discussed the plans of the subcommittees; prepared the First Psychological Symposium; discussed book publishing plans; prepared future scientific plans; established contact with the Society for the Dissemination of Social and Natural Sciences Knowledge; discussed the 1960 budget and the distribution of available loans; and examined documental problems.

The Secretariat of the HSA approved the following scientific plans, presented by the Psychology Committee:

To include into the National Research Plan:

1. Marxist interpretation of psychic phenomena; the application of the principle of determinism, as the Marxists interpret the

term, in psychology.

2. Collective psychology of modern plant organization; the examination of intra-factory human relationships (between leader and subordinate; same-level colleague relationships; work brigades).

3. Study of student personality and pedagogic personality; psychological conditions for developments of same; psychological conditions of the formation of scholarly community in various environments.

4. The psychology of crime.

To include into the projected research plan of the HSA:

1-4 [Same as above]

5. Research in neurosis which creates conflicts and the prevention of neurosis-creating conditions.

6. Psychology and therapeutic pedagogy.

To include into the research plan of the Psychological Committee:

1. The place of psychology in the system of sciences.

2. Marxist interpretation of psychic phenomena.

3. The application of the principle of determinism, as the Marxists interpret the term, in psychology.

4. Recognizing activity and action -- research in the simultaneous development of the activities.

5. Psycho-physiological problems.

6. Collective psychology of modern plant organization.

7. The examination of intra-factory human relationships (between chief and subordinate; same-level relationships; work brigades).

8. Methods of vocational selections; tests; psychological problems of vocational guidance.

9. The psychology of criminal activity.

10. Clarification of psychological diagnostical methods and viewpoints of psycho-therapeutical methods.

11. Research in neurosis which create conflicts; prevention of neurosis creating conditions.

12. Research on the effects of mind-controlling drugs.

To include into the plans of the subcommittees of the Psychological Committee:

Philosophical psychology

1. The place of psychology in the system of sciences.

2. The relation between psychology and dialectical materialism and between psychology and physiology.

3. Marxist interpretation of psychic phenomena.

4. The application of the principle of determinism, as the Marxists interpret the term, in psychology.

5. The history of the materialist concept in the psychology of activity.

6. The history of the materialist concept in the psychology of personality traits.

General, Experimental and Collective Psychology

1. Psychological problems of studying.

2. Psycho-physiological problems.
3. Psychology of thinking.
4. Collective psychology of modern plant organization.
5. The summing up of various personality theories.
6. Research of group structure.

Pedagogical Psychology

1. Study of student personality and pedagogic personality; psychological conditions for developments of same.
 2. Psychological conditions of the formation of scholarly community in various environments.
 3. Recognizing activity and action -- research in the simultaneous development of the activities.
 4. Methods for the development of thinking.
 5. Relation between the interest and activity of students.
- Preparation for the choice of vocation.
6. The role of emotions in the pedagogical work.
 7. Increase in the efficiency of the pedagogical work with the help of pedagogical psychology.

Work Psychology

1. Psychological questions in accident prevention.
2. Collective psychology of modern plant organization; the examination of intra-factory human relationships (between chief and subordinate; same-level colleague relationships; work brigades).
3. Training and re-orientation (with special consideration to the development of applied technologies).
4. Fatigue and work output.
5. Methods of vocational selections; tests; psychological problems of vocational guidance.
6. Environmental effects on work.

Medical Psychology

1. Research in conflicts which create neurosis; prevention of neurosis creating conditions.
2. Research in the methods used in preventive mental hygiene in Hungary.
3. Research on the effects of the mind-controlling drugs.
4. Detailed, critical summing up of the various psycho-therapeutical trends and their application in Hungarian environments.
5. Sensory-psychological phenomena.
6. Research in psychosomatic phenomena.
7. Starting work on Hungarian pathobiographies (patobiografiai).

Criminal Psychology

1. The psychology of criminal activity.
2. The role of psychology in the detection of criminal activity.
3. Utilization of psychological factors in the usefulness of punishment and in the meting out and execution of same.

Practical Methodology

1. Clarification of psychological diagnostical methods and viewpoints of psycho-therapeutical methods (with special consideration to child psychology).